REMARKS

Status Summary

In this Amendment, no claims are added, and claims 5, 16, and 24 are canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-23, and 25-29 will be pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 4-29 were rejected under 35 C.F.R. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,282,267 to Nolting (hereinafter, "Nolting"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 12, and 22 respectively recite a method, a system, and a computer program product for automated analysis of signaling link utilization data. Each of these claims has been amended to recite that a graph of signaling link occupancy per unit time is displayed to a user via a signaling link utilization screen. Each claim also recites that the graph includes a plurality of portions indicating signaling link occupancies at different times. Input is received from a user for selecting one of the portions. In response to the input, signaling message data corresponding to the selected portion is automatically extracted from a signaling message database. Each claim has been amended to recite that the signaling message data includes message types for signaling messages corresponding to the selected portion of the graph.

An example of a graph that displays signaling link occupancy per unit time is illustrated in Figure 3. In Figure 3, the graph includes colored spikes that indicate link occupancies for different signaling links at different time periods. When a user selects

one of the spikes, the signaling message data illustrated in Figure 4 is displayed. As illustrated in Figure 4, the signaling message data that is displayed includes the signaling message type, which allows the user to understand the causes of events, such as abnormal signaling link utilization, indicated by the selected portion of the graph.

There is absolutely no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Nolting of displaying a graph of signaling occupancy per unit time to a user where the graph includes portions indicating signaling link occupancies at different times, receiving user input for selecting one of the portions, or displaying corresponding signaling message type data from a database. Nolting is directed to real time monitoring of SS7 signaling links. Rather than disclosing display a graph of signaling link occupancies per unit time, Nolting discloses that SS7 call detail records (CDRs) are generated. (See e.g., column 12, lines 16-19 of Nolting.) As is known to those of skill in the art, a call detail record is a collection of one or more parameters from a signaling message. A call detail record does not indicate signaling link occupancy and is not a graph of signaling link occupancy per unit time as claimed in the independent claims of the present application. Accordingly, because Nolting fails to teach or suggest displaying a graph of signaling link occupancy per unit time to a user or allowing the user to select and view corresponding signaling message type information, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4-29 as anticipated by Nolting should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nolting in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,350 to Spangler et al. (hereinafter, "Spangler"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1. As set forth above, Nolting fails to teach or suggest displaying a graph of signaling link occupancy per unit time or allowing a user to select and view corresponding signaling message type information as claimed in claim 1. Spangler likewise lacks such teaching or suggestion. Spangler is directed to methods and systems for collecting and processing SS7 MSUs. Spangler, like Nolting, is directed to generating call detail records (CDRs) based on the MSUs. As stated above with regard to the rejection of the claims as anticipated by Nolting, a CDR does not indicate signaling link occupancy data. Rather, a CDR is a collection of signaling message parameters, for example as illustrated in column 14 of Spangler. Accordingly, because Nolting and Spangler fail to teach or suggest displaying a graph of signaling link occupancy per unit time or allowing a user to select and view signaling message type data corresponding to the link occupancy data, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 3 as unpatentable over Nolting in view of Spangler should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.
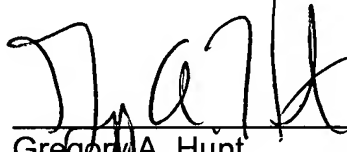
A check in the amount of $1,810.00 is enclosed for the Request for Continued Examination fee and Extension of Time fee. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment or credit any overpayments associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. **50-0426**.

Respectfully submitted,

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